

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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In Reply To:

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March 17, 2006

EMAIL TRANSMISSION - 3/17/06

Information Bulletin No. MT-2006-034

To: State Management Team

From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources

Subject: Recreation/Wilderness Workshop

DD: 3/24/06

The Montana/Dakota's BLM will hold a Recreation/Wilderness Workshop on March 29-31, 2006, in Billings, at the Montana State Office (MSO), in the main conference room (side B). The workshop will start at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 29, and conclude at 12 noon on Friday, March 31, allowing Tuesday and Friday for travel days. Thursday, March 30, the Engineering Workshop will join the Recreation Workshop (sides A and B) to share training information. The primary objective for holding the workshop is in support of benefit-based planning, 1232 fee program, recreation site conditions assessment, travel management, and wilderness study area (WSA) management and monitoring. The first day will focus on WSA IMP training from the Carhart Center, a program on visual resource management, GIS technology, and FAMS systems training provided by the engineering staff for travel management, and a session on the fee audit. The second day will start off with a session from the (WO-250) Recreation Lead, a guest speaker from (WO-250) on the Land and Water Conservation Fund program, and the remaining sessions will be shared with both engineering and recreation staffs with recreation condition assessment and sign training. The third day is devoted to training sessions in the morning for using the RMIS software and Tread Lightly programs. All managers, recreation and park managers, and other staff involved in assisting the recreation program are encouraged to attend.

By March 24, 2006, if you have not already done so, please confirm with Chris Miller, if you will participate in the workshop so that a notebook and materials are available for each participant. As a reminder, travel and per diem should be covered by your home office and each attendee should make their own lodging arrangements. There are 15 rooms reserved under "BLM-Recreation-Wilderness" at the Hampton Inn (406-248-4949). Several other motels are within walking distance of the MSO; contact Chris if you need a list of them.

You may contact Chris at 406-896-5038 if you have any questions or need further information about the workshop.

Signed by: Randy D. Heuscher, Acting DSD, Division of Resources

Authenticated by: Kathy Iszler, Staff Assistant (MT-924)

1 Attachment

1-Agenda (3 pp in its entirety)

Distribution w/Attm.

AFM, Havre FS - 1

AFM, Glasgow FS - 1

Montana/Dakota's BLM Recreation/Wilderness Workshop
March 29-31, 2006, Billings, MT
Main Conference Room

Wednesday, March 29 Side B

8:00 Introductions by State Director - Division of Resources - Branch Program Leads

9:00 **New Wilderness Study Area (WSA) Monitoring Format:** With declining budgets in 1210, but the continuing mandate to monitor our WSA, the SO Wilderness lead is working on opportunities to assist the FOs with accomplishing this workload. The new statewide monitoring form, as well as information on volunteer programs, will be presented.

Interim Management Policy (IMP) Issues include a presentation by Chris Barns of the Carhart Center: These will include current issues in each FO and potential solutions. Update regarding Montana legislation activities. (Chris Barns)

10:15 Break

- **Visual Resource Management (VRM):** Most FO Recreation Planners are the key contact and responsible for VRM. The SO Recreation staff will review the recently developed training on VRM Best Management Practices for Oil & Gas, as well as the new environmental color charts. This information will be helpful to facilitate the development of alternatives and mitigation measures for EAs, assist FOs in completing the VRM portion of RMPs, and help facilitate oil & gas development.

11:30 Lunch

12:45 **Travel Management:** The WO AWP Directives, as well as the Statewide OHV EIS require a focus on travel management planning. The SO Travel & Trail Management lead has assisted in developing WO guidance and direction (not yet released) on Travel Management Planning. This session will be an opportunity to update FOs on current direction. In addition, the Engineering staff will discuss incorporating GIS technology in road/trail inventory work into the new FAMS system to better facilitate travel management planning. Guidelines for incorporating opportunities for hunters with disabilities will also be discussed.

2:00 Break

2:15 **Law Enforcement Issues** – guest speaker J. Caffey
Discuss law enforcement in relation to travel management restrictions and the SRP program.

3:15 **Special Recreation Permits (SRP) – Fee Audit:** Montana is required to complete an audit of its SRP program this fiscal year, as directed and earmarked in the AWP. We have not conducted an internal audit of our fee program, and inconsistencies and issues are apparent. The SO has been working on guidance and direction to assist the FOs in working with their SRPs to ensure consistency and compliance with guidance. This session will help facilitate the upcoming audit and provide the necessary statewide guidance.

5:00 Adjourn

Thursday, March 30 - Sides A & B - Engineering and Recreation

8:15 **Federal Lands Enhancement Recreation Act (FLREA):** This new fee legislation will change the way the FOs administer fee sites. The WO will provide clarification on classification system used and current information on the process for setting and changing fees. (Bob Ratcliffe)

- **Business Plans:** The AWP directs all Fee Sites to have a current Business Plan in place. This will impact ALL field offices, with the exception of Miles City. The SO Recreation staff will provide guidance, direction, and examples of Business Plans, to help facilitate this additional workload for the FOs. (Miller & Ratcliffe)
- **Benefits-Based Planning:** The WO IM on the change from Activity-Based to Benefits-Based planning was just issued January 10, 2006. This is a major change in the approach to recreation planning that will impact all RMPs. The SO Recreation staff will provide details and facilitate discussion on how to incorporate this major shift into RMPs. (Bob Ratcliffe)
- **A National BLM Recreation Overview (WO-250)** for the current fiscal year and a discussion of future recreational trends for BLM. (Bob Ratcliffe)

10:15 Break

10:30 **Recreation Site Condition Assessment:** The AWP directs the Recreation staff to fully participate with the Condition Assessment program this fiscal year. The WO “expects Recreation & Engineering programs to work together to complete this workload.” Most Recreation staffs have not been involved in this process to date. This session is an opportunity for Recreation & Engineering staffs to become familiar with this program as well as the new FAMS database, which is also identified as a priority in the AWP directives. (Scott DeBock and Greg Bergum)

11:30 Lunch

12:45 **Signs:** The WO recently released the new Sign Guidebook. Adam Deutsch will be presenting the new data standards, their status in regard to the development of the new database, and a discussion regarding the status of sign funding in the MIS system. (Adam Deutsch)

2:00 Break

2:15 **Budget:** There are new program elements associated with the 1651 and 1652 programs. Greg Bergum will discuss these new PEs, the 5-year plan development, Asset Priority Indexes, and Current Replacement Values.

3:00 **Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF):** Many recreation planners are involved in LWCF acquisitions. They will have the opportunity to sit in, along with the FMs, on the LWCF presentation given by David Beaver from the WO.

5:30 Adjourn

Friday, March 31 - Concurrent Sessions

8:00 **Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) Training:** Five recreation related positions have identified the need to complete RMIS training. The RMIS data base is an essential tool for all recreation positions that is used on a weekly basis. Without this training, WO data calls are extremely difficult to complete. The WO RMIS lead is willing to host this training in Montana during the Recreation Workshop. (Tina McDonald)

8:30- **Interagency River Partnership: - Side A**

10:00 Missoula FO has entered into a River Management partnership with Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks. The Dillon FO is discussing this option. This session will discuss how these partnerships are working, what are the benefits, what are the disadvantages, and if this is something to pursue on a wider basis. Update on national river management from Wade Brown. (Chris Miller)

8:00 **Tread Lightly** - Introduction by Cyndi Eide - Side B

This workshop will be great for introducing you to Tread Lightly. Individuals who participate in this workshop will not be considered certified program volunteers. It is simply another option for receiving information on Tread Lightly for the public to take advantage of.

8:30 **Field Trip to Pompeys Pillar National Monument (PPNM):** Dick Kodeski will introduce workshop participants to the new Pompeys Pillar Visitor Center and explain what events will be taking place during Clark on the Yellowstone Signature Event on July 22-25, 2006.

12 Noon - Completion of Recreation/Wilderness Workshop